

1                   **In the Claims**

2                   Claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 13, 21, 23, and 31 are amended.

3                   Claims 2, 4, 6, 10, 11, 15, 22, 24-26, 32, 33 are canceled without prejudice.

4                   Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9, 12-14, 16-21, 23, 27-31, 34-38 remain in the  
5 application and are listed below:

6  
7                   1.       (Currently Amended) A system for synchronizing a visualization  
8 with audio samples comprising:

9                         one or more audio sources configured to provide audio samples that are to  
10 be rendered by a media player;

11                         an audio sample pre-processor communicatively linked with the one or  
12 more audio sources and configured to receive and pre-process audio samples  
13 before the samples are rendered, the pre-processing providing characterizing data  
14 associated with each sample, wherein the characterizing data is derived from the  
15 audio samples, wherein the audio sample pre-processor comprises a timestamp  
16 module that provides a timestamp for each audio sample, each timestamp being  
17 maintained by a data structure associated with the audio sample, wherein the audio  
18 sample pre-processor is configured to:

19                                 query a media player audio sample renderer for a time associated  
20 with an audio sample that is being currently rendered, and

21                                 use the time to ascertain a timestamp of an associated audio sample,  
22 the audio sample pre-processor further being configured to provide  
23 characterizing data of the associated audio sample so that the characterizing  
24 data can be used to render the visualization; and  
25

1 one or more effects configured to receive the characterizing data and use  
2 the characterizing data to render a visualization that is synchronized with an audio  
3 sample that is being rendered by the media player; and

4 multiple data structures configured to hold the characterizing data, each  
5 data structure being associated with an audio sample.

6  
7 2. (Canceled).

8  
9 3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2 1, wherein the audio  
10 sample pre-processor is configured to maintain the data structures.

11  
12 4. (Canceled).

13  
14 5. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 4~~ The system of claim 1,  
15 wherein the timestamp is assigned by the timestamp module based upon when the  
16 audio sample is calculated to be rendered by the media player.

17  
18 6. (Canceled).

19  
20 7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said characterizing data  
21 comprises frequency data.

22  
23 8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said audio sample pre-  
24 processor comprises a Fast Fourier Transform that it utilizes to process the audio  
25 samples to provide frequency data associated with the audio samples.

1  
2 9. (Currently Amended) A media player comprising:

3 an audio sample pre-processor configured to receive and pre-process audio  
4 samples before the samples are rendered by the media player, the pre-processing  
5 providing frequency data associated with each sample, wherein the frequency data  
6 is derived from the audio samples, wherein the audio sample pre-processor  
7 comprises a timestamp module that provides a timestamp for each audio sample,  
8 each timestamp being maintained by a data structure associated with the audio  
9 sample, and further wherein the audio sample pre-processor is configured to:

10 query a media player audio sample renderer for a time associated  
11 with an audio sample that is being currently rendered, and

12 use the time to ascertain a timestamp of an associated audio sample,  
13 the audio sample pre-processor further being configured to provide  
14 frequency data of the associated audio sample to the one or more effects so  
15 that the frequency data can be used to render the visualization; and

16 one or more effects configured to receive the frequency data and use the  
17 frequency data to render a visualization that is synchronized with an audio sample  
18 that is being rendered by the media player; and

19 multiple data structures configured to hold the frequency data, each data  
20 structure being associated with an audio sample.

21  
22 10. (Canceled).

23  
24 11. (Canceled).

25

1           12. (Original) The media player of claim 9, wherein the audio sample  
2 pre-processor pre-processes the audio samples by using a Fast Fourier Transform  
3 to provide the frequency data.

4  
5           13. (Currently Amended) A system for synchronizing a visualization  
6 with audio samples comprising:

7           an audio sample pre-processor configured to receive and preprocess audio  
8 samples before the samples are rendered by a renderer that comprises part of a  
9 media player, the audio sample preprocessor preprocessing the samples to provide  
10 characterizing data derived from each sample, the characterizing data comprising a  
11 timestamp associated with each audio sample, the timestamp being assigned in  
12 accordance with when the audio sample is calculated to be rendered by the  
13 renderer, wherein the audio sample pre-processor comprises a Fast Fourier  
14 Transform that it utilizes to process the audio samples to provide frequency data  
15 associated with the audio samples;

16           multiple data structures configured to hold the characterizing data, each  
17 data structure being associated with an audio sample;

18           an audio rendering object configured to call the audio sample pre-processor  
19 to ascertain the characterizing data associated with an audio sample that is  
20 currently being rendered by the renderer;

21           the audio sample pre-processor being configured to ascertain said  
22 characterizing data by querying the renderer for a time associated with the  
23 currently-rendered audio sample, and then using said time to identify a data  
24 structure having a timestamp that is nearest in value to said time; and  
25

1 one or more effects configured to receive characterizing data that is  
2 associated with the data structure having the timestamp that is nearest in value to  
3 said time, and use the characterizing data to render a visualization that is  
4 synchronized with the audio sample that is being rendered by the renderer.

5  
6 14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the characterizing data  
7 comprises frequency data.

8  
9 15. (Canceled).

10  
11 16. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the visualization is  
12 rendered in a rendering area in which other media types can be rendered.

13  
14 17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the other media types  
15 comprise a video type.

16  
17 18. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the other media types  
18 comprise a skin type.

19  
20 19. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the other media types  
21 comprise a HTML type.

22  
23 20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the other  
24 media types comprise an animation type.

25

1           21. (Currently Amended) A system for processing audio samples  
2 comprising:

3           a timestamp module for assigning timestamps to audio samples that are to  
4 be rendered by a media player renderer;

5           a spectrum analyzer for processing the audio samples to derive frequency  
6 data from the audio samples, wherein the spectrum analyzer comprises a Fast  
7 Fourier Transform that is utilized to provide the frequency data;

8           multiple data structures each of which being associated with an audio  
9 sample, the data structures each containing timestamp data and frequency data for  
10 its associated audio sample; and

11           the system being configured to use the timestamp data to ascertain a data  
12 structure associated with an audio sample that is currently being rendered by the  
13 media player renderer and provide the frequency data associated with that audio  
14 sample so that the frequency data can be used to render a visualization associated  
15 with that audio sample.

16  
17           22. (Canceled).

18  
19           23. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a visualization  
20 comprising:

21           receiving multiple audio samples;

22           pre-processing the audio samples before they are rendered by a media  
23 player renderer, the pre-processing deriving characterizing data from each sample,  
24 wherein the characterizing data comprises a timestamp associated with the audio  
25

1 sample, the timestamp being provided based upon when the audio sample is  
2 calculated to be rendered by the media player renderer;

3 maintaining characterizing data for each audio sample in a data structure  
4 associated with each audio sample;

5 determining when an audio sample is being rendered by the media player  
6 renderer, wherein said determining comprises:

7 ascertaining a time associated with a currently-rendered audio  
8 sample;

9 selecting a data structure having a timestamp that is nearest the time;

10 and

11 providing characterizing data associated with the selected data  
12 structure to a component configured to provide the visualization; and

13 responsive to said determining, using the characterizing data that is  
14 associated with the audio sample that is being rendered to provide a visualization.

15  
16 24. (Canceled).

17  
18 25. (Canceled).

19  
20 26. (Canceled).

21  
22 27. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the characterizing data  
23 comprises frequency data associated with each sample.

1        28. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein said pre-processing  
2 comprises using a Fast Fourier Transform to provide frequency data associated  
3 with the samples.

4  
5        29. (Previously Presented) A method of providing a visualization  
6 comprising:

7            receiving multiple audio samples;

8            pre-processing the audio samples before they are rendered by a media  
9 player renderer, the pre-processing comprising at least (1) using a Fast Fourier  
10 Transform to derive frequency data from the samples, and (2) associating a  
11 timestamp with each sample;

12            maintaining frequency data and a timestamp for each sample in a data  
13 structure;

14            determining when an audio sample is being rendered by a media player  
15 renderer by:

16            ascertaining a time associated with a currently-rendered sample; and

17            selecting a data structure having a timestamp that is nearest the time; and

18            providing frequency data associated with the selected data structure to a  
19 component configured to use the frequency data to render the visualization.

20  
21        30. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having computer-  
22 readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the  
23 computer to implement the method of claim 29.

24

25

1           31. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a visualization  
2 comprising:

3           calling an audio sample pre-processor for characterizing data that has been  
4 derived from an associated audio sample that is currently being rendered by a  
5 media player renderer, wherein the characterizing data comprises frequency data  
6 associated with the audio samples and generated by pre-processing the audio  
7 samples using a Fast Fourier Transform;

8           calling the media player renderer for a time associated with a currently-  
9 rendered audio sample;

10          using the time to select a data structure containing characterizing data  
11 associated with the currently-rendered audio sample; and

12          providing the characterizing data to a component for rendering a  
13 visualization.

14  
15          32. (Canceled).

16  
17          33. (Canceled).

18  
19          34. (Previously Presented) One or more computer-readable media  
20 having computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a  
21 computer, cause the computer to:

22          pre-process audio samples using a Fast Fourier Transform to derive from  
23 the audio samples frequency data, the audio samples being pre-processed before  
24 they are rendered by a media player renderer;

1 query for frequency data that is associated with an audio sample that is  
2 currently being rendered by the media player renderer;

3 query for a time associated with the currently-rendered audio sample;

4 use the time to select a data structure containing frequency data associated  
5 with the currently-rendered audio sample; and

6 provide the frequency data to a component that uses the frequency data for  
7 rendering a visualization.

8  
9 35. (Previously Presented) A method of providing a visualization  
10 comprising:

11 defining a frame rate at which visualization frames of a visualization are to  
12 be rendered, the visualization frames being rendered from characterizing data that  
13 is computed from audio samples and which is used to create the visualization;

14 setting a threshold associated with an amount of time that is to be spent  
15 rendering a visualization frame;

16 monitoring the time associated with rendering individual visualization  
17 frames;

18 determining whether a visualization frame rendering time exceeds the  
19 threshold; and

20 providing an effective frame rate for rendering visualization frames that is  
21 longer than the defined frame rate if the determined visualization frame rendering  
22 time exceeds the threshold.

23

24

25

1       36. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein said providing  
2 comprises increasing a call interval associated with calls that are made to a  
3 visualization-rendering component.

4  
5       37. (Original) The method of claim 35 further comprising modifying the  
6 effective frame rate so that the visualization frames are rendered at the defined  
7 frame rate.

8  
9       38. (Previously Presented) One or more computer-readable media  
10 having computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a  
11 computer, cause the computer to:

12       set a threshold associated with an amount of time that is to be spent  
13 rendering a visualization frame for a given frame rate, said visualization frame  
14 being associated with a visualization that is rendered using characterizing data  
15 computed from audio samples, which characterizing data is used to create the  
16 visualization;

17       monitor the time associated with rendering individual visualization frames;  
18       determine whether a visualization frame rendering time exceeds the  
19 threshold; and

20       provide an effective frame rate for rendering the visualization that is longer  
21 than the defined frame rate if the determined visualization frame rendering time  
22 exceeds the threshold.  
23  
24  
25